

Conservation Connections



Biathlon Series

The 2024 Winter Biathlon will be in its third year. This year there is the addition of a second option - skiing & archery. Participants can register online at



Wish for snow

Winter is a great time to get outside. Yes, that's correct! Think of the activities that we can only enjoy during these colder months, including cross country skiing and snowshoeing.

Weather permitting both are available at the Tosanak Recreation Area! Let it snow . . . Let it snow!



New Years Day Hike!

Join Floyd County Naturalist Heidi Reams at Mathers Woods for a New Years Hike. The hike will start at 1 p.m. on January 1st. Pre-registration is appreciated via mycountyparks.com.

UPCOMING EVENTS



TRIVIA NIGHT - JANUARY 11

Join Floyd County Conservation at the Tellurian Brewery in Charles City for Trivia Night. Show off your knowledge of local conservation and our natural resources.

WOMEN IN THE WOODS WITH WINE - JANUARY 25

Join Floyd Co. Conservation Naturalist Heidi Reams to discover more about nature while relaxing with a glass of wine. Women in the Woods with Wine is for women 21+ who are interested in the outdoors. Become more comfortable and knowledgeable about the natural world, as you unwind and have fun.

Pre-registration required.

Register online at mycountyparks.com/county/floyd/events.aspx

7-9 p.m.

Cost \$15, checks made out to the Fossil & Prairie Conservation Foundation (can bring payment the night of the event)

CABIN FEVER WEEKEND - JEWELRY WORKSHOP - JAN. 28

Don't let the "winter blues" prevent you from thinking of spring!

Create your own jewelry with the help of butterflies! Make a ring, earrings, and necklace pendant using butterfly wings.

Event will take place at 11 a.m. at the Tosanak Recreation Area, Learning Center.

Cost \$10 per person,

Payable the day of the event.

Pre-registration required.

Register online at mycountyparks.com/county/floyd/events.aspx

NEXT MONTH . . .

Open XC Skiing

Winter Biathlon

Ice Fishing Frenzy

CROSS COUNTY SKIING

Weather permitting, we will be hosting "pop-up" skiing events. All open ski events will be held at the Tosanak Recreation Area, Learning Center.

Fun for the entire family with equipment to fit them all!

Equipment rental \$5 per person. Includes XC skis, poles & boots.

No registration needed.

Watch on FaceBook and website for details when the conditions are right.

HOW TO STAY CONNECTED IN 2024

As we begin a new year, you may notice a few changes.

- Floyd County Conservation and the Fossil & Prairie Conservation Foundation newsletters will now be monthly! This change is to help everyone stay up-to-date on the events and projects that will be happening around the county. Newsletters can be mailed, upon request. This change will also help reduce costs in printing and mailing the newsletters.
- In addition to the newsletter, information can be found online at floydco.iowa.gov. You can also sign up to receive notifications when events/information is posted.
- Follow us on the following social media platforms
 - FaceBook - Floyd Co. Conservation, Fossil & Prairie Park and Tosanak Recreation Area.
 - Instagram - Floyd Co. Conservation and Fossil & Prairie Park
 - YouTube - Floyd County Conservation



2024 Fundraising Focus

A natural playscape to be installed at the Fossil & Prairie Park in May.

This playscape will contain ADA compliant rock and log structures for the youth to climb upon.

If you'd like to donate to this project, contact the

Fossil & Prairie Center 641-756-3490

Fossil & Prairie Conservation Foundation Board

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Amy Noss, Dougherty, Secretary
Heidi Reams, Rockford, Treasurer

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Barbara Brown

Ronald Peterson
Roger & LuAnn Demaray

Dawn Stevens
Boy Scout Troop 1922
Cub Scout Pack 4022



LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

WHAT'S COMING IN 2024

By Heidi Reams, Naturalist

As the 2023 visitor season closed, Floyd County Conservation staff looked to next year. We have many new programs planned as well as updates/upgrades to our areas and facilities. We hope that you will take time and visit or re-visit our areas in the future to see what changes have been made as well as enjoy the natural resources that Floyd County has to offer. Below is a sneak peak at some of the projects we are working on.

>>> FOSSIL & PRAIRIE CENTER

Winter is a time when the indoor exhibits are updated! This year is no different. One of the original exhibits, the Winnebago River, will be having a major update this winter with the assistance of Robin Macomber. Watch for sneak peaks before the Center opens on May 4th, 2024.

>>> TOSANAK RECREATION AREA

2023 brought 19 new RV sites to the Tosanak Recreation Area. Seventeen of the now 27 sites there have water, electricity, and sewer connections with the other 10 sites having water and electricity. All of the sites, as well as other facilities, are available to reserve now for the 2024 season. Check out Mycountyparks.com for complete facility details, rates and availability.

>>> RIVERBEND WILDLIFE

With the assistance of Charles City Boy Scouts, this fall Oak seedlings were planted at Riverbend Wildlife. This is part of the forestry plan for the area following the timber removal that occurred. The scouts will also be helping create a trail system through the area that will take visitors to the river. In the spring, bird houses (bluebird and wood duck) will also be added to the area. The Riverbend Wildlife Area is a great place to get into nature just off of the city sidewalk!



Floyd County Conservation Board

Pete Klobberdanz, Charles City, President
Jesse Frerichs, Rockford, Vice President
Pam Folz, Charles City, Member
Mary Ramon, Nora Springs, Member
Doug Johnson, Charles City, Member



Floyd County Conservation Staff

Adam Sears, Director
Heidi Reams, Naturalist
Spencer DeJoode, Natural Resource/Ranger
Tyron Steere, Natural Resource
Amy Boggess, Office Assistant

Floyd County Conservation Board Meetings

The Floyd County Conservation Board meetings are open to the public and visitors are welcome. The Board meets on the first Tuesday of the month at the Fossil & Prairie Center, located 1 mile west of Rockford on County Road B47. Please note this date can be changed.